

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00499 121031Z

13

ACTION NEA-01

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----- 122177

O P 121005Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2629

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0499

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION SECSTATE MIDEAST VISIT

USIA FOR IOP/M; INA: IBS; IPS

BEIRUT FOR VOA

CAIRO FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. CITING WIRE SERVICE DISPATCHES, BOTH DAMASCUS DAILIES REPORTED END OF SECRETARY'S INITIAL ROUND OF TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS AND SCHEDULED COMMENCEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS IN CAIRO.

2. CONTINUE THEME OF YESTERDAY'S EDITORIAL, AL-BAATH COLUMNIST MAHMOUD KAMIL ASSERTS IN THIRD PAGE ARTICLE THAT AMERICAN-ISRAELI ACTIVITY TOWARD PHASED AGREEMENTS IS ANOTHER FORMULA AIMED AT GAINING TIME. HE SAID THIS REFLECTS OFFICIAL ISRAELI THINKING: "A BIT OF LAND INSTEAD OF A BIT OF PEACE." KAMIL BELIEVES ISRAELI EFFORTS AT SPLITTING THE ARAB RANKS ARE ALSO AIMED AT GAINING TIME. HE SAYS, "ISRAELIS IMAGINE THEY CAN COMPLETE UNCLASSIFIED

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THEIR MILITARY PREPARATIONS BY NEXT YEAR SO THEY CAN IMPOSE

A FAIT ACCOMPLI ON THE ARABS. THEY IMAGINE THAT BY NEXT YEAR
THE ARABS WOULD LOSE THE CAPABILITY OF PRESSURING AMRI-
CA AND EUROPE WITH OIL. THEY IMAGINE THAT PROCRASTINA-
TION IN WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AND SPLITTING
THE CAUSE THROUGH PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS WOULD CREATE CON-
FLICTS WITHIN THE ARAB SIDE AND WOULD DRIVE THE ARABS TO
A STATE OF ANXIETY IN WHICH THEY WOULD WEAKEN IN THEIR
DETERMINATION..."

KEITH

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NNN

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